

Podcasting



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Podcasting

The Podcasting Kit empowers students to amplify their voices and bring ideas to life through audio storytelling. With a Zoom P4 audio interface, professional microphones, and all the tools needed for recording a multi-person show, learners can explore communication, media production, and creative expression hands-on. Whether sharing science discoveries or hosting student-led interviews, this kit transforms collaboration and curiosity into broadcast-ready content.



Grade Level

6th - 12th

Group Size

1 - 4 students per group

Time Duration

45 minutes - multisession

Content of Kits

Components

- Zoom P4 audio interface (for recording and managing multiple microphones)
- 4 microphones
- 4 microphone stands and holders
- 4 xlr cables
- Rechargeable AA batteries and a charger
- SD cards



Usage

Getting Started

1. **Unpack and Set Up the Equipment** – Show students how to connect microphones to the Zoom P4 using XLR cables, and insert the SD card for recording.
2. **Power Up Properly** – Insert charged AA batteries into the Zoom P4 or connect it via USB power, and check that all equipment is functioning before use.
3. **Test Sound Levels** – Have each student speak into their microphone while adjusting gain levels on the Zoom P4 to ensure clear, balanced audio.
4. **Start with a Short Practice Recording** – Let students record a quick introduction or conversation to get comfortable with speaking and listening to playback.
5. **Discuss Podcasting Etiquette** – Teach basic mic etiquette (like staying close to the mic, avoiding tapping, and speaking clearly) before recording a full episode.

Storage

- **Coil Cables Neatly** – Use cable management to prevent damage or tangling.
- **Store Mics and Accessories in Padded Cases** – Keep microphones, stands, and holders in a soft-lined container to protect them from impact.
- Store all components in the storage bin provided when not in use
- **Sanitize** microphones between uses.

Troubleshooting

- **No Sound from Mic** – Check XLR connections, ensure the corresponding input channel is not muted, and confirm gain levels are turned up.
- **Audio Distortion or Clipping** – Reduce microphone gain or move the speaker slightly farther from the mic.
- **Zoom P4 Not Powering On** – Make sure batteries are fully charged.
- **Recording Not Saving** – Check that the SD card is inserted properly and has available storage space; reformat if needed.
- **Buzzing or Feedback Noise** – Reposition cables away from power sources, check for loose connections, or switch out cables one at a time to isolate the issue.



Activity Guide

Beginner

Mic Check, 1–2–3

Students will work in small groups to set up microphones, test audio levels, and record a short 1–2 minute personal introduction or fun prompt (e.g., “My favorite snack,” “The best movie ever,” etc.). They’ll learn how to operate the Zoom P4, monitor sound, and play back their recordings. This activity builds confidence with equipment and helps students hear the impact of clear speech and mic technique.

Intermediate

Mini Interview Project

Students will pair up to plan, record, and edit a short podcast episode (3–5 minutes) in which one interviews the other about a topic of their choice (e.g., a hobby, a family tradition, or a science experiment). They’ll write intro scripts, ask thoughtful questions, and learn how to structure a short segment with a beginning, middle, and end. This activity reinforces active listening and story planning skills.

Advanced

Podcast Episode Production

Working in teams, students will produce a 7–10 minute podcast episode featuring an intro, one or two segments (such as interviews, research reports, or debates), and a closing reflection. They will take on different production roles (host, tech lead, editor, scriptwriter), plan the content, manage audio quality, and organize files using SD cards and naming conventions. This activity integrates storytelling, project management, and audio production.

Extension Activities:

Podcasting for a Purpose

Students will identify a community topic or school issue (e.g., recycling efforts, a student spotlight, book recommendations) and produce a podcast episode intended to inform or inspire listeners. They’ll write and revise scripts, research talking points, and publish their podcast to a shared classroom platform or school website. This builds communication and advocacy skills, with an authentic audience in mind.

Cross-Curricular Podcast Collaboration

Students will create an episode that supports another subject area—such as a science report on climate change, a math segment on real-life budgeting, or an English-language book review discussion. This encourages interdisciplinary thinking and gives students a creative outlet to share what they've learned in other areas through digital storytelling.



Learning Extensions

STEAM Connections: Technology - Science Communication

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how to set up and operate podcasting equipment, including microphones and audio interfaces.
- Understand and apply basic audio recording principles, including mic technique and sound quality control.
- Develop communication skills through scriptwriting, interviewing, and speaking with clarity and purpose.
- Plan, organize, and produce podcast segments with a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Practice teamwork and project roles (hosts, producer, audio engineer, writer) to complete a collaborative media project.

Career Connections:

- **Audio Engineer** – Master foundational tools and workflows used in sound recording and production.
- **Journalist/News Broadcaster** – Practice interviewing, storytelling, and clear spoken communication.
- **Digital Content Creator/Media Producer** – Develop planning, scripting, and editing skills relevant to podcasting and social media platforms.
- **Public Relations Specialist** – Learn how to shape narratives and communicate ideas to target audiences.

Essential Employability Skills:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Technology Literacy
- Innovation
- Critical Thinking
- Time Management





Resources and Accessibility

Safety Guidelines

- **Handle Equipment Carefully** – Always carry microphones and the Zoom P4 audio interface with two hands and place them on stable, flat surfaces during use.
- **Use Cables Safely** – Keep XLR cables organized and out of walkways to prevent tripping hazards and cable damage.
- **Avoid Feedback** – Instruct students to keep microphones away from speakers or headphone output to prevent loud, sudden feedback.
- **Monitor Volume Levels** – Use headphones to check for safe and comfortable audio playback; avoid high-volume settings.
- **Supervise Charging & Battery Use** – Ensure rechargeable AA batteries are inserted properly and charging stations are used safely and responsibly.

Accessibility

- **Use Adjustable Stands** – Provide tabletop or floor stands that can be easily positioned for students with limited mobility or different seating needs.
- **Support Script Alternatives** – Allow students to use bullet points, visual aids, or pre-recorded clips if reading or memorizing is a barrier.
- **Incorporate Visual Planning Tools** – Use storyboards, graphic organizers, or slide decks to help students structure their podcasts.
- **Provide Verbal and Visual Instructions** – Offer step-by-step directions both in writing and spoken aloud to accommodate different learning styles.

Library Catalog



Library Resources



Feedback

QR to feedback survey

